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1           1'.   A method comprising:  
2               executing a first basic input/output system  
3 module; and  
4               dynamically linking to a second basic  
5 input/output system module.

1           2.    The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2               storing said first module of a basic input/output  
3 system for a processor-based system on a first storage  
4 device prior to execution;  
5               storing said second module of the basic  
6 input/output system on a second storage device prior to  
7 execution; and  
8               enabling said second module to be executed  
9 conditionally depending on a state of said processor-based  
10 system.

1           3.    The method of claim 2 wherein storing said second  
2 module includes storing said second module in a storage  
3 associated with a network server accessible to said  
4 processor-based system over a network.

1           4.    The method of claim 1 further including detecting  
2 said system state during the boot sequence.

1        5.    The method of claim 4 including detecting whether  
2    or not the system is connected to a network during the boot  
3    operation.

1        6.    The method of claim 1 including dynamically  
2    linking to one of a plurality of modules, and exporting an  
3    offset to an entry point in one module to another module.

1        7.    The method of claim 6 including storing a  
2    secondary entry point in a module to locate a function  
3    within the module.

1        8.    The method of claim 7 including developing a  
2    segment address for said second module at run time.

1        9.    The method of claim 8 including providing a  
2    descriptor table which indicates a segment address for said  
3    second module.

1        10.   An article comprising a medium for storing  
2    instructions that cause a processor-based system to:  
3        execute a first basic input/output system module; and  
4        dynamically link to a second basic input/output system  
5    module.

1 11. The article of claim 10 further storing  
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to:  
3 access said first module of a basic input/output  
4 system on a first storage device;  
5 access said second module of the basic  
6 input/output system on a second storage device; and  
7 execute said second module conditionally  
8 depending on the state of said processor-based system.

1 12. The article of claim 11 further storing  
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to access  
3 said second module in a storage associated with a network  
4 server accessible to said processor-based system over a  
5 network.

1 13. The article of claim 11 further storing  
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to execute  
3 said second module conditionally depending on whether or  
4 not the processor-based system is coupled to a network.

1 14. The article of claim 11 further storing  
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to  
3 selectively access either a first module setting forth a  
4 first authentication protocol in a first storage device or  
5 a second module setting forth a second authentication  
6 protocol in a second storage device.

1 15. The article of claim 11 further storing  
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to  
3 dynamically link said first and second modules.

1 16. The article of claim 11 further storing  
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to detect  
3 said system state during the boot sequence.

1 17. The article of claim 16 further storing  
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to detect  
3 whether the system is connected to a network during the  
4 boot operation.

1 18. The article of claim 11 further storing  
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to  
3 dynamically link to one of a plurality of modules using  
4 offsets to entry points in said modules.

1 19. The article of claim 18 further storing  
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to store a  
3 secondary entry point in a module to locate a function  
4 within the module.

1 20. The article of claim 19 further storing  
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to develop  
3 a segment address for said second module at run time.

1 21. The article of claim 20 further storing  
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to provide  
3 a descriptor table which identifies the segment address for  
4 said second module.

1 22. A processor-based system comprising:  
2 a processor;  
3 a first basic input/output system module  
4 executable by said processor; and  
a second basic input/output system module  
executable by said processor, said second module being  
dynamically linked to said first module.

1 23. The system of claim 22 including a detector that  
2 detects a system state to determine whether said processor  
3 executes said second module.

1 24. The system of claim 22 including a first storage  
2 for said first module and a second storage for said second  
3 module, said second storage being coupled to said  
4 processor-based system over a network.

1        25. The system of claim 24 wherein said detector  
2 detects information about network access.

1        26. The system of claim 25 wherein said first and  
2 second modules include different authentication protocols.

1        27. The system of claim 26 wherein said processor  
2 executes said basic input/output system module on said  
3 second storage to implement a network authentication  
4 protocol.

1        28. The system of claim 22 wherein said first module  
2 dynamically links to said second module, using an offset  
3 exported from said second module.

1        29. The system of claim 28 wherein said first module  
2 uses a secondary entry point to locate a function in said  
3 second module.

1        30. The system of claim 22 wherein said processor  
2 provides a descriptor table which includes a segment  
3 address for said second module.